

**Implementation Sub-Committee of The Task Force on Federal
Legislation
Of the Children's Cabinet**

MEETING MINUTES

May 05, 2006

Meeting was called to order at 9:00 AM.

1. MINUTES April 07, 2006

Approved

**2. STATUS REPORT OF PROPOSED CHANGES TO FIP – Donalda
Carlson**

The following proposed legislative changes to FIP are pending in the legislature. We have been working on implementation plans for each of the proposed changes. Since we don't know which will pass we prepare for all. Preparations are always lengthy and the implementation deadlines subsequent to passage are not adequate.

· FIP employment plan as a condition of eligibility has a chance of passage. This will require that an assessment and employment plan development will occur before an applicant is approved for cash assistance. This will require process and system changes.

· Full family sanction after 3 months of partial sanction. A letter has been sent to those who are currently in partial sanction status advising that full family sanction after three months of partial

sanction is being considered in the legislature. A request was made that a copy of the letter be sent to service providers.

- Months of receipt of family assistance in other states may be counted in the calculation of the number of months used in Rhode Island. We are preparing forms and process to ascertain if applicants and current clients have received family assistance in other states.

- Gradual reduction in FIP benefits is being proposed. \$25.00 reductions to the FIP payment will occur at one year intervals after a person has received FIP for more than 24 months; \$50.00 per month for parents on more than 36 months but less than 49 months; and \$75.00 per month for families on cash for more than 48 months but less than 60 months cumulatively. Donalda clarified that the amount of the reduction after the adult(s) are taken out of the payment at the conclusion of their 60 months of benefit receipt would be approximately \$80.00 which is the approximately the current amount removed from the payment once a parent reaches their 60 month time limit. Linda Katz pointed out that if this provision were passed, these reductions will impact housing authorities and FS.

- It is proposed that FIP be reduced from a 60-month lifetime limit on the receipt of cash assistance to a limit of 30 months.

- Child Care co-payments will be increasing.

Linda Katz also shared information about another bill being proposed that offers recommendations to improve the efficacy of the FIP program.

3. RAPID JOB ENTRY PROGRAM (RJEP) - Camille Vollaro

6-week snapshot between March 20 and May 1 the following activity took place:

- 7 RJEP locations were operated,**
- 16 workshops were conducted,**
- Referrals - 72 single parent cases, 99 two parent cases, 20 post 24 month cases, 16 sanctioned cases,**
- Enrollment – 39 single parent cases, 25 two parent cases, 20 post 24 month cases, 12 sanctioned cases,**
- Placed – 4 single parent cases, 7 two parent cases, 2 post 24 month cases, 2 sanctioned cases,**
- Of 173 referrals 47 came with TABE test scores.**

Camille reported that RJEP would be requiring that participants submit a weekly log documenting five job searches per week. Also reported is that the Job Retention Unit bi lingual staff will be assisting RJEP with its non-English speaking clients.

4. BUDGET OVERVIEW - Donalda Carlson

Donalda apologized about the fact that Director Ron Lebel had intended to review FIP and Child Care Expenditures with WRITF members but was called to cover a conference at the last minute. He sent his apologies. Donalda provided charts and reviewed expenditures and caseload changes since FIP began.

Adjourned at 11:05 AM. Next meeting on June 2, 2006

Meeting was adjourned at 11:15 AM. The next meeting was scheduled for May 5, 2006.